

Serial No.: 10/765,708  
Examiner: Loren C. Edwards  
Title: EXHAUST ASSEMBLY  
Page 2 of 11

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A exhaust assembly system comprising:  
a combustion engine having an exhaust to emit water and exhaust gases from the exhaust; and  
a sound-dampening device coupled between the exhaust and a muffler, the sound-dampening device including a tubular member having an inner diameter and two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the tubular member; each ring having an inner surface facing directly an inner space of the tubular member, wherein the rings are positioned and adapted to create water droplets from the water as the exhaust gases and the water exit the combustion engine.
2. (Currently amended) The exhaust assembly system of claim 1, wherein the engine is within a genset.
3. (Currently amended) The exhaust assembly system of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes a flexible exhaust hose for connecting between the exhaust and a muffler, the flexible exhaust hose having an inner diameter, and the two or more rings are located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose.
4. (Currently amended) The exhaust assembly system of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes an exhaust tube having a first end connectable to the exhaust, the tube including an inner diameter, the inner diameter having the at least two rings mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the exhaust tube pipe.

Serial No.: 10/765,708  
Examiner: Loren C. Edwards  
Title: EXHAUST ASSEMBLY  
Page 3 of 11

5. (Currently amended) The exhaust assembly system of claim 1, wherein the system is adapted for marine use.
6. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for connecting with a combustion engine, comprising:
  - a flexible exhaust hose for connecting between a combustion engine and a muffler, the flexible exhaust hose having an inner diameter; and
  - two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose and an inner surface having an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each of the inner surfaces of the rings facing directly an inner space of the flexible exhaust hose, wherein the rings are positioned and adapted to create water droplets from water as exhaust gases and the water exit the combustion engine.
7. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the two or more rings are spaced about 4 1/2 inches apart from each other along a length of the flexible exhaust hose.
8. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust hose has an outer diameter of about 2 inches.
9. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust hose is adapted for marine conditions.
10. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the length of the flexible exhaust hose is about 6 feet or less.
11. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for connecting with a combustion engine, comprising:

Serial No.: 10/765,708  
Examiner: Loren C. Edwards  
Title: EXHAUST ASSEMBLY  
Page 4 of 11

a rigid tube having a first end connectable to an exhaust outlet of a combustion engine, the tube including an ~~uniform~~ inner diameter, the inner diameter having at least two rings mounted thereto in an exhaust gas passageway, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the pipe, wherein the rings are adapted to create water droplets from cooling water as exhaust gases and the cooling water exit the combustion engine.

12. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube is a rigid metal pipe.
13. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein a second end of the tube is connectable to a flexible marine exhaust hose.
14. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube includes a first ring mounted to the first end of the tube and a second ring mounted to a second end of the pipe.
15. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube and the rings are stainless steel.
16. (Canceled)